

Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 STRE-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

OMB-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02 /135 W

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FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1251

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ACTION STR

H PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MTN, ETRD, GATT

SUBJ: SECTORS GROUP STUDIES: GATT SECRETARIAT PROBLEMS WITH
PRODUCTION DATA

REF: MTN GENEVA 1013

1. GATT SECRETARIAT (TILL) CALLED ON THE U.S. MTN DEL
ON MARCH 8 TO DESCRIBE DIFFICULTIES THE SECRETARIAT HAD
ENCOUNTERED IN PRESENTING PRODUCTION DATA IN THE STUDIES
IT IS PREPARING FOR THE SECTORS GROUP, PARTICULARLY AS
THEY RELATE TO ENGINEERING AND CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES. TILL
NOTED THAT, AS REFLECTED IN SECTORS GROUP CHAIRMAN'S
SUMMING-UP (MTN/SEC/3 OF 11 NOV. 1975), GROUP "AGREED TO
REQUEST THE SECRETARIAT TO INITIATE THE COMPILATION OF
READILY AVAILABLE DATA ON TRADE FLOWS, TARIFFS, NONTARIFF
MEASURES AND PRODUCTION FOR SECTORS WHICH HAVE NOT ALREADY
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BEEN TAKEN UP." AS REPORTED IN REFTTEL, SECRETARIAT

HAS NO SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM WITH TRADE DATA, USING GATT
TARIFF STUDY TAPES AND UN TAPES.

2. HOWEVER, SECRETARIAT HAS SEVERAL PROBLEMS WITH
PRODUCTION DATA. THE FIRST PROBLEM CONCERNS THE
SECRETARIAT'S INABILITY TO MATCH TRADE DATA WITH
PRODUCTION DATA OBTAINED FROM OTHER SOURCES. NATIONAL
GOVERNMENTS DO NOT COLLECT PRODUCTION STATISTICS IN
COMPARABLE MANNER; UNITS OF MEASUREMENT DIFFER WIDELY.
NEVERTHELESS, SECRETARIAT WILL DO ITS BEST TO PRESENT
DATA IN USABLE FORM.

3. A MORE CONTENTIOUS PROBLEM, TILL CONTINUED, IS EC
REFUSAL TO ALLOW SECRETARIAT TO PRESENT DATA, INCLUDING
PRODUCTION DATA, BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBER COUNTRY OF THE NINE
EC COUNTRIES. FOR EXAMPLE, IN ENGINEERING INDUSTRY
PRODUCTION DATA IS USUALLY AVAILABLE FOR SEVERAL EC
MEMBER STATES BUT NOT FOR THE EC AS A WHOLE, SOMETIMES
BECAUSE DATA IS WITHHELD FROM PUBLICATION BY COUNTRIES
CONCERNED BECAUSE OF SMALL NUMBER OF FIRMS, AND IN OTHER
CASES, BECAUSE OF INABILITY OF MEMBER COUNTRIES TO
COLLECT AND PUBLISH PRODUCTION DATA. AN EFFORT TO AGGREGATE
FOR EC AS A WHOLE DATA AVAILABLE FROM JUST SOME EC COUNTRIES
WOULD BE VERY MISLEADING.

4. TILL ASKED HOW THE U.S. WOULD WANT SECRETARIAT TO
PROCEED, IN VIEW OF THESE PROBLEMS. WE SUGGESTED THAT
SECRETARIAT SIMPLY REPRODUCE IN ITS SECTORS STUDIES
PRODUCTION TABLES PUBLISHED BY OTHER INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS WHICH BREAK OUT INDIVIDUAL EC MEMBER
COUNTRIES. FOR CHEMICALS, THIS WOULD BE UN ECONOMIC
COMMISSION FOR EUROPE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY COMMITTEE
PUBLICATIONS. FOR ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES, WHICH
INCLUDE HEAVY ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT AND ELECTRONICS,
SECRETARIAT WILL INCLUDE ONE COPY FOR EACH DELEGATION
OF OECD ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES STUDY. IN BOTH CASES
DATA WILL APPEAR BY INDIVIDUAL EC MEMBER STATE WITH
MANY BLANK SPOTS, USUALLY ITALY. WE OBSERVED THAT SINCE
(A) SECRETARIAT WOULD BE SIMPLY COMPLYING WITH SECTORS
GROUP INSTRUCTION (AT EC INSISTANCE) TO USE
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"READILY AVAILABLE DATA," WHICH IN THESE TWO AREAS IS
LIMITED PRIMARILY TO THESE PUBLICATIONS; (B) AN EFFORT
BY SECRETARIAT TO AGGREGATE EC MEMBER STATE DATA INTO
ONE EC FIGURE WOULD BE EXTREMELY MISLEADING; AND (C) EC
COMMISSION DOES NOT PUBLISH EC-WIDE PRODUCTION DATA, EC
SHOULD HAVE NO GROUNDS FOR COMPLAINT. ALTERNATIVE
WOULD BE FAILURE TO INCLUDE PRODUCTION DATA IN
SECRETARIAT SECTOR STUDIES.

5. WE HAVE PURPOSELY AVOIDED ANY CONTACT WITH EC COMMISSION DEL ON THIS QUESTION,FORCING SECRETARIAT TO SERVE AS MIDDLEMAN.

6. REFTEL REPORTED THAT SECRETARIAT HAD ALMOST COMPLETED ITS PROCESSING OF TARIFF AND TRADE DATA FOR ELECTRONICS, HEAVY ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT, AND CHEMICALS AND WOULD DO SAME SUBSEQUENTLY FOR TWO OR THREE AS YET UNDECIDED OTHER SECTORS. SECRETARIAT HAS STILL NOT DECIDED WHAT THOSE OTHER SECTORS SHOULD BE, BUT WE NOTE THAT USE OF OECD ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES DATA, WHICH INCLUDES BOTH ELECTRICAL AND NONELECTRICAL MACHINERY, IS A VERY BROAD SECTOR.WALKER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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